

# An overview and evaluation of classifying the types of intimate partner violence



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# Presentation Overview

## Overview of Johnson's Typology of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Empirical support
- Recommendations for application in research and practice
- Recent extensions

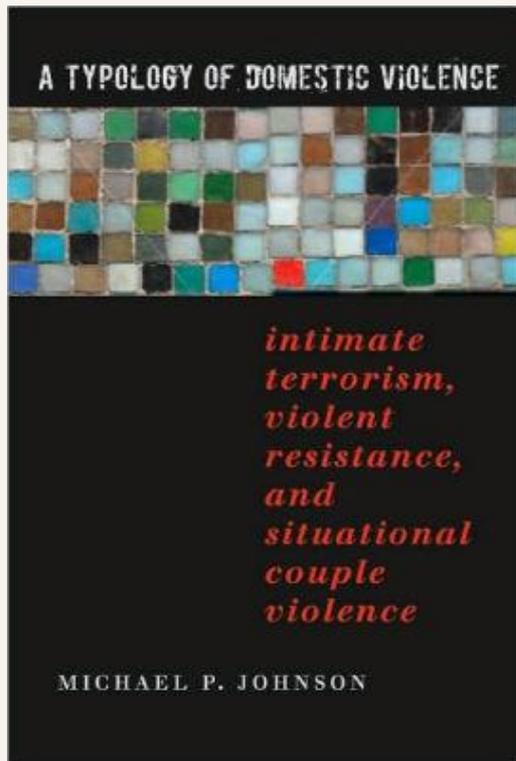
## Classifying data (cases) into Johnson's IPV types

- Exemplar: Hardesty et al. (2015)

Future directions for research and practice – *Where to go from here*



# Overview: Johnson's Typology of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



Johnson, M. P. (2008). *A typology of domestic violence: Intimate terrorism, violent resistance, and situational couple violence*. Lebanon, NH: Northeastern University Press.



# Johnson's Typology

Bridges two major bodies of literature and tackles the gender debate

- Feminist and Family Violence literatures

Moves beyond a “one-size-fits-all” approach

- Explains IPV variations using *context*

Began as a conceptual framework

- See Johnson & Ferraro (2000), Johnson (2008), and Johnson (2017) for more on the typology's development and evolution



# Johnson's Typology

Intimate Terrorism

Situational Couple Violence

Violent Resistance

Mutual Violent Control



# Intimate Terrorism (IT)

(Ansara & Hindin, 2010; Johnson, 2008; Johnson & Leone, 2005; Johnson, 2017)

Used interchangeably with “coercive controlling violence” (was “patriarchal terrorism”)

Violence is used as one tactic to exert coercive control over partner

- Primarily male-perpetrated

Coercive control is personal, gendered, and pervasive (Stark, 2007)

- Nonviolent tactics take on a violent meaning and instill fear
- E.g., previously violent perpetrator gives a dirty look

Associated with greater consequences and risks after separation than other IPV types



# Situational Couple Violence (SCV)

(Ansara & Hindin, 2010; Johnson, 2008; Johnson & Leone, 2005; Johnson, 2017)

Formerly called “common couple violence”

Men and women perpetrate more equally

Motive may be to control situation but not partner

Violence arises out of specific conflicts that may escalate with other issues

- E.g., substance use, poor anger management

*Usually*\* less frequent, severe, and injurious than Intimate Terrorism (i.e., Coercive Controlling Violence)

\*SCV can still be dangerous, severe, and result in injury and/or death.

**There is much variability.**



# Violent Resistance (VR)

(Johnson, 2008; Johnson, 2017)

Violence used to defend oneself, to fight back, for retaliation, to escape, as a last resort, or as a means to an end

Resisting Intimate Terrorism by using noncontrolling violence

- E.g., Hitting back after being struck

May be represented in studies documenting (some) women's use of violence

More work needed to explore distinctions in women's use of violence



# Mutual Violent Control (MVC)

(Johnson, 2008; Johnson, 2017)

Both partners use Intimate Terrorism (i.e., Coercive Controlling Violence)

- i.e., Both partners use violence as a means to control the other

Partners don't have to be equally coercively controlling and violent

Observed rarely in quantitative studies

A false type? Johnson (2017) believes that with further study, cases may actually look like Violent Resistance as opposed to Mutual Violent Control



# Empirical Support for Johnson's Typology of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



# Empirical Support for Johnson's Typology

Initially validated by Johnson and colleagues using large datasets:

- National Violence Against Women Survey
- Chicago Women's Health Risk Study
- Effects of Violence on Work and Family Study

100+ studies validate or partially validate the typology, specifically the dimensions of **coercive control** and **violence**



# Selected Sources Offering Empirical Support

Anderson, 2008	Hardesty et al., 2008	Mennicke, 2019
Ansara & Hindin, 2010	Haselschwerdt, 2014	Menon, 2008
Beck et al., 2013	Haselschwerdt et al., 2019	Menon & Johnson, 2007
Crossman et al., 2016	Johnson et al., 2014	Nawaz, 2014
Crossman & Hardesty, 2018	Johnson, 2006	Nielsen et al., 2015
Eckstein, 2017	Johnson & Leone, 2005	Rosen et al., 2005
Frankland & Brown, 2014	Laroche, 2005	Sillito, 2012
Frye et al., 2006	Leone, 2007	Stith et al., 2011
Graham-Kevan & Archer, 2003	Leone et al., 2007	Tanha et al., 2010
Hardesty et al., 2015	Leone et al., 2014	Velonis, 2016



# The Value of Johnson's Typology

Offers complex and *contextualized* explanations of IPV

- Specific violent acts can look alike but risks differ by type
- Distinctions are based on identifying a *pattern* of coercive control

Typology helps tailor services to meet different needs

- Informs screening and identification protocols
- Informs service responses, interventions, and postseparation arrangements



# Applications to Practice



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# Intervention Recommendations

(Johnson, 2008)

**Note:** Safety assessment & planning always come first! Assume intimate terrorism until type confirmed. Screenings must identify violence & coercive control.

## Intimate Terrorism

### For victim:

- Individual counseling
- Trauma recovery
- Violence prevention
- Boost empowerment, awareness, & readiness to leave
- Work with victims where they are psychologically (e.g., stages of change)

### For perpetrator:

- Batterer treatment intervention

## Situational Couple Violence

### For both:

- Conflict resolution
- Anger management
- Rehabilitation
- Individual counseling, then couple's counseling if safety established
- Parent education classes



# Family Court Recommendations

(Johnson, 2008)

**Note:** Safety remains a priority. Custody decisions and parenting plans must reflect needs and risks with consideration for separation-instigated violence and escalation.

## Intimate Terrorism

Disengaged or parallel parenting with minimal contact and safety plans:

- Support services for victim
- Interventions for abuser
- Consequences for violating agreements
- Supervised exchanges

## Situational Couple Violence

Cooperative co-parenting arrangements may be possible:

- Prioritize conflict resolution
- Equalize power and set boundaries
- Include additional supports, supervision, or safety plans as needed



# Primary Prevention and Education

(Johnson, 2008)

## Intimate Terrorism

- Establish equality and respect
- Safety planning
- Identify warning signs within context of relationship dynamics (i.e., warning signs are often unique and personal)
- Promote help-seeking and social/community connections with an eye toward safety

## Situational Couple Violence

- Address risks for and sources of conflict
- Improve communication and conflict management skills
- Promote anger management, substance use rehabilitation, or other services when applicable
- Safety planning
- Identify and address triggers and risks for escalating conflict or violence



# Recent Extensions to Johnson's Typology



# Extending Johnson's Typology

## Familial Intimate Terrorism (Menon, 2008; Nawaz, 2014)

- Intimate Terrorism within non-Western joint family households, where threats and violence involve the family system
- E.g., both husband and other family members control the wife

## Nonviolent Coercive Control (Crossman & Hardesty, 2018; Crossman, Hardesty, & Raffaelli, 2016; Frankland & Brown, 2014; Katz, 2016; Velonis, 2016)

- A partner is coercively controlling but nonviolent
  - E.g., A physically nonviolent partner restricts their partner from leaving the home
- Some similarities to Intimate Terrorism but more research is needed
- A precursor to violence, or an “incipient intimate terrorism”?  
(Johnson, 2008, p. 46)



# Extending Johnson's Typology

## IPV Types in same-sex couples

- Fewer studies examine same-sex IPV
- E.g., Frankland & Brown (2014)

## Additional patterns of violence and coercive control or types beyond Johnson's types?

- E.g., Mennicke (2019) identified 10 unique IPV types

Applying Johnson's typology remains challenging without consistent methods for identifying violence and coercive control in research and practice



# An Exemplar Study Classifying Johnson's IPV Types

Hardesty, J. L., Crossman, K. A., Haselschwerdt, M. L., Raffaelli, M., Ogolsky, B. G., & Johnson, M. P. (2015). Toward a standard approach to operationalizing coercive control and classifying violence types. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 77, 833-843. doi: 10.1111/jomf.12201

Project supported by National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (Grant R21HD061559A), Human Development and Family Studies Department and Office of Research in College of ACES at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Hatch Grant 793-348 from US Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture



# Classifying Johnson's IPV Types

No universal method for classifying data (cases) into IPV types

Researchers have applied Johnson's framework using:

- Cutoff scores based on theory (e.g., Frye et al., 2006)
- Cluster analysis to group related factors (e.g., Johnson & Leone, 2005)
- Qualitative analysis of women's narratives (e.g., Hardesty et al., 2008)
- See Hardesty et al. (2015) and Eckstein (2017) for more details

Improvements in measuring IPV, particularly coercive control, are needed to identify IPV types in research and practice



# Study Objectives

1. To compare and evaluate approaches to operationalizing coercive control and classifying IPV types using a sample of divorcing women
  - Count vs. frequency of coercive controlling behaviors
  - Exploratory and confirmatory cluster analyses
2. To identify a cutoff score that distinguishes high from low coercive control on a commonly used measure
3. To test the validity of cluster solutions and the cutoff score by comparing IPV groups on theoretically relevant variables



# Study Method

Data from two studies of divorcing mothers' IPV experiences

Participants were identified via public divorce records and invited to complete two (in study 1) or five (in study 2) interviews, 3 months apart

Inclusion criteria:

- Divorce filing within past 4 months
- At least one child under age 18
- Custody of child(ren) at least 25% time
- Physically separated < 3 years
- English speaking



# Sample ( $N = 190$ )

( $n = 55$  for study 1 and  $n = 135$  for study 2), T1 data

<b>Age</b>	20.83 – 54.67 ( $M = 35.72$ , $SD = 7.28$ )
<b>Racial or ethnic identity</b>	80% White, 12.1% Black or African American, 3.7% Asian or Asian American, 1.6% Latina or Hispanic, 2.6% biracial
<b># of children</b>	1 – 4 ( $M = 1.75$ , $SD = 0.75$ )
<b>Length of marriage</b>	0.17 – 27.42 years ( $M = 9.60$ , $SD = 5.89$ )
<b>Length of separation</b>	<1 - 34 months ( $M = 8.05$ , $SD = 6.76$ )
<b>Employment status*</b>	56.8% full time, 19.5% part time, 12.6% unemployed not by choice, 11.1% unemployed by choice
<b>Education</b>	13.7% high school or less, 36.8% some college, 33.7% bachelor's, 15.8% master's or doctorate

\*Mothers in study 1 were more likely to report being unemployed in comparison to mothers in study 2;  $\chi^2(3, N = 190) = 11.55, p = 0.009$ .



# Measures

## Coercive control during marriage

Dominance/Isolation subscale, Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory – Short Form (PMWI; Tolman, 1992)

*Never* [1] to *Always* [5]

1. He monitored my time and made me account for my whereabouts.
2. He used our money or made important financial decisions without talking to me about it.
3. He was jealous or suspicious of my friends.
4. He accused me of having an affair with another man.
5. He interfered in my relationships with other family members.
6. He tried to keep me from doing things to help myself.
7. He restricted my use of the phone.



# Measures

## **Fear during marriage**

Women's Experiences of Battering Scale (Smith, Earp, & DeVillis, 1995)

*Disagree strongly [1] to Agree strongly [6]*

## **Violence and injury during marriage and after separation**

Modified version of CTS2 physical assault, sexual coercion, and injury subscales (Goodman, Dutton, Weinfurt, & Cook, 2003)

*Never, once, twice, 3-5 times, 6-10 times, or 10+ times*

## **Harassment after separation**

Harassment in Abusive Relationships: A Self-Report Scale (Sheridan, 2001)

*Never [0] to Very frequently [4]*

## **Perceived threat of future harm**

IPV Threat Appraisal (Dutton, Goodman, Lennig, Murphy, & Kaltman, 2006)

*Low risk [1] to high risk [5]*



# Analysis

Two types of cluster analysis were conducted to explore and confirm patterns of coercive control within the data and identify distinct groups (i.e., clusters)

Hierarchical cluster analysis (Ward's method) on dominance/isolation responses scored as:

- Frequency of behaviors, *never* [1] to *always* [5]
- Count of behaviors, *absent* [0] or *present* [1]

*k*-means cluster analysis to test cluster stability (Henry et al., 2005)

Mothers were classified into IPV types:

- Coercive controlling violence (high control / yes violence)
- Situational couple violence (no or low control / yes violence)
- Nonviolent coercive control (high control / no violence)
- No IPV (no or low control / no violence)



# Analysis

The validity of the cluster solutions was evaluated using

MANOVA with pairwise comparisons of IPV types on:

- Frequency and severity of violence and injury since separation
- Harassment since separation
- Fear after separation
- Perceived threat of future harm

Independent samples *t*-tests to compare violence groups on:

- Frequency of violence during marriage
- Injury during marriage
- Number of severe violent acts during marriage



# Results for Study Objective 1

To compare and evaluate approaches to operationalizing coercive control and classifying IPV types

- Count vs. frequency of coercive controlling behaviors
- Exploratory and confirmatory cluster analyses



# Classifying High vs. Low Coercive Control Using the *Frequency* of Behaviors

Hierarchical cluster analysis, Ward's method (exploratory)

Cluster 1 (low control)	Cluster 2 (high control)
$n = 130, 68.4\%$	$n = 60, 31.6\%$
Range 7 - 20 out of 35 ( $M = 11.79, SD = 3.55$ )	Range 17 - 35 out of 35 ( $M = 17.95, SD = 4.95$ )

*k*-means cluster analysis with 2-cluster solution (confirmatory)

Cluster 1 (low control)	Cluster 2 (high control)
$n = 130, 68.4\%$	$n = 60, 31.6\%$
Range 7 - 19 out of 35 ( $M = 11.72, SD = 3.41$ )	Range 18 - 35 out of 35 ( $M = 25.10, SD = 4.92$ )



# Classifying High vs. Low Coercive Control Using a *Count* of Behaviors

Hierarchical cluster analysis, Ward's method (exploratory)

Cluster 1 (low control)	Cluster 2 (high control)
n = 100, 52.6%	n = 90, 47.4%
Range 0 - 5 out of 7 ( $M = 2.27$ , $SD = 1.57$ )	Range 2 - 7 out of 7 ( $M = 5.47$ , $SD = 1.29$ )

k-means cluster analysis with 2-cluster solution (confirmatory)

Cluster 1 (low control)	Cluster 2 (high control)
n = 75, 39.5%	n = 115, 60.5%
Range 0 - 4 out of 7 ( $M = 1.53$ , $SD = 1.08$ )	Range 3 - 7 out of 7 ( $M = 5.25$ , $SD = 1.19$ )



# Evaluating the Stability of Coercive Control Cluster Solutions

To test whether cluster solutions were stable, we examined how many individual cases changed groups (e.g., from “high” to “low” control) between clustering methods

	Frequency clusters	Count clusters
Number and % of case changes	8 cases (4.2%)	41 cases (21.5%)

Distinguishing high from low coercive control based on the reported *frequency* of behaviors produced more stable groups



# Results for Study Objective 2

To identify a cutoff score on the Dominance/Isolation subscale that distinguishes high from low coercive control



# Identifying a Cutoff Score

Dominance/Isolation scores were examined to determine an appropriate cutoff score to distinguish high from low coercive control based upon cluster membership

	<b>Dominance/Isolation Score</b>									
<b>Cluster</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
High Control	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	8.3	10.0	6.7	8.3	8.3
Low Control	5.5	8.5	3.9	6.9	3.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Note.* Cluster membership is based on a *k*-means two-cluster solution. Table values are percentages.

# Identifying a Cutoff Score

A score of 19 minimized misclassification of cases while remaining conservative with regards to identifying high coercive control

- Only 4 of 190 cases could be misclassified using a cutoff score of 19 vs. 7 with a cutoff of 18
- i.e., Using a score <19 could result in more cases being misclassified as situational couple violence vs. intimate terrorism

	Dominance/Isolation Score									
Cluster	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
High Control	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	8.3	10.0	6.7	8.3	8.3
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*Note.* Cluster membership is based on a *k*-means two-cluster solution. Table values are percentages.

# Results for Study Objective 3

To test the validity of cluster solutions and the cutoff score by comparing IPV groups on theoretically relevant variables



# Group Sizes for IPV Types

(*N* = 190)

Low Control		High Control	
No IPV	Situational Couple Violence	Nonviolent Coercive Control	Coercive Controlling Violence
<i>n</i> = 73 38.4%	<i>n</i> = 57 30%	<i>n</i> = 12 6.3%	<i>n</i> = 48 25.3%



Table 3. *Group Comparisons on Variables of Interest*

Variable	Test statistic	Low-control groups				High-control groups			
		Group 1: No violence/low control ( <i>n</i> = 73)		Group 2: Situational couple violence ( <i>n</i> = 57)		Group 3: Nonviolent coercive control ( <i>n</i> = 12)		Group 4: Coercive controlling violence ( <i>n</i> = 48)	
		<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Frequency of marital violence <sup>a</sup>	2.28*			9.91	12.34			16.48	17.09
Frequency of marital injury <sup>a</sup>	2.87*			1.70	2.75			4.44	6.56
Number of severe violent acts in marriage <sup>a</sup>	2.57*			0.89	1.23			1.58	1.51
Number of violent acts since separation	2.98*	0.00	0.00 <sup>2,4</sup>	0.21	0.56 <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.75 <sup>1</sup>
Number of injuries since separation	1.26	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.35
Frequency of harassment since separation	16.69*	1.75	2.77 <sup>2,3,4</sup>	5.84	6.19 <sup>1,4</sup>	6.08	5.85 <sup>1,4</sup>	10.22	9.22 <sup>1,2,3</sup>
Perceived future threat	13.66*	20.33	5.52 <sup>2,3,4</sup>	25.70	9.34 <sup>1,4</sup>	28.33	8.97 <sup>1</sup>	30.89	12.15 <sup>1,2</sup>
Fear during marriage	42.95*	19.90	10.75 <sup>2,3,4</sup>	30.58	12.71 <sup>1,3,4</sup>	42.50	10.39 <sup>1,2</sup>	43.71	13.28 <sup>1,2</sup>
Fear after separation	17.07*	0.27	0.67 <sup>2,4</sup>	0.72	0.96 <sup>1,4</sup>	0.75	0.97 <sup>4</sup>	1.46	1.20 <sup>1,2,3</sup>

*Note.* Numeric superscripts reflect differences between the group in that column and the groups designated by the superscript ( $p < .05$ ).

<sup>a</sup>Marital violence and injury variables are only applicable to the violence groups. Differences between Groups 2 and 4 on these variables were evaluated with *t* tests. Group differences for all other variables were examined using a multivariate analysis of variance with pairwise comparisons, controlling for mothers' age.

\* *F* or *t* value significant at  $p < .05$ .

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Fear during marriage	42.95*	19.90	10.75 <sup>2,3,4</sup>	30.58	12.71 <sup>1,3,4</sup>	42.50	10.39 <sup>1,2</sup>	43.71	13.28 <sup>1,2</sup>
Fear after separation	17.07*	0.27	0.67 <sup>2,4</sup>	0.72	0.96 <sup>1,4</sup>	0.75	0.97 <sup>4</sup>	1.46	1.20 <sup>1,2,3</sup>

*Note.* Numeric superscripts reflect differences between the group in that column and the groups designated by the superscript ( $p < .05$ ).

<sup>a</sup>Marital violence and injury variables are only applicable to the violence groups. Differences between Groups 2 and 4 on these variables were evaluated with *t* tests. Group differences for all other variables were examined using a multivariate analysis of variance with pairwise comparisons, controlling for mothers' age.

\* *F* or *t* value significant at  $p < .05$ .

Table 3. *Group Comparisons on Variables of Interest*

Group Comparisons: Violence		Low-control groups				High-control groups			
		Group 1: No violence/low control ( <i>n</i> = 73)		Group 2: Situational couple violence ( <i>n</i> = 57)		Group 3: Nonviolent coercive control ( <i>n</i> = 12)		Group 4: Coercive controlling violence ( <i>n</i> = 48)	
Variable	Test statistic	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Frequency of marital violence <sup>a</sup>	2.28*			9.91	12.34			16.48	17.09
Frequency of marital injury <sup>a</sup>	2.87*			1.70	2.75			4.44	6.56
Number of severe violent acts in marriage <sup>a</sup>	2.57*			0.89	1.23			1.58	1.51
Number of violent acts since separation	2.98*	0.00	0.00 <sup>2,4</sup>	0.21	0.56 <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.75 <sup>1</sup>
Number of injuries since separation	1.26	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.35
Frequency of harassment since separation	16.69*	1.75	2.77 <sup>2,3,4</sup>	5.84	6.19 <sup>1,4</sup>	6.08	5.85 <sup>1,4</sup>	10.22	9.22 <sup>1,2,3</sup>
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\* *F* or *t* value significant at  $p < .05$ .

# Summary of Group Comparisons

In comparison to the No IPV group, mothers in the Nonviolent Coercive Control group reported:

- Greater fear during marriage
- More frequent harassment after separation
- Greater perceived threat of future harm

In comparison to the Situational Couple Violence group, mothers in the Coercive Controlling Violence group reported:

- Greater fear during marriage and after separation
- More frequent harassment after separation
- Greater perceived threat of future harm
- No differences in frequency or severity of violence or injury in marriage or after separation



# Discussion



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# Discussion

Advantages of identifying coercive control based on the frequency of behavior

- Identifying coercive control requires establishing a ***pervasive pattern***
- Relying on a count of behaviors may overlook high controllers who use few different tactics but relentlessly
- The count approach produces unstable (i.e., unreliable) groups

A score of 19 on the Dominance-Isolation subscale of PMWI distinguishes high from low coercive control

- Standard cutoff scores offer consistency in measurement and allow for comparison of findings across studies
- Replication needed using larger and diverse samples



# Discussion

## IPV and its associated risks continue postseparation

- Both violence groups reported more violence and harassment after separation, greater fear, and greater perceived threat of future harm than the no IPV group

## Findings provide further evidence on the centrality of coercive control in marital and postseparation experiences

- High control groups reported reported greater distress than both low control groups, **with** and **without** violence

## Tailor screening tools, services, and custody decisions to IPV types

- Identify and consider IPV **in context**, including nonviolent coercive control
- To promote favorable outcomes, address diverse needs based on IPV type
- Prioritize safety



# Future Directions

## *Where to go from here*



# Future Directions

Generate clearer understandings of coercive control (e.g., Crossman & Hardesty, 2018; Mennicke, 2019)

- How is **coercive** control distinct from other control issues in relationships?
- How does coercive control operate independently of violence?

Examine violence **within context** across relationship types and experiences

- Do IPV trajectories change with time or circumstance? (e.g., SCV turning into IT postseparation; separation-instigated violence; dating vs. marital IPV)
- How do the IPV types play out in same-sex relationships (e.g., Frankland & Brown, 2014) and in non-Western cultures and societies (e.g., Nawaz, 2014)?
- What is the impact of exposure to IPV types, particularly those involving coercive control, on children, youth, and families (e.g., Haselschwerdt et al., 2019)?



# Future Directions

Translate findings into real-world strategies and solutions (e.g., screening tools, response protocols, family court recommendations, and education/prevention)

- Establish standard and empirically-driven identification measures or screening tools that effectively capture both IPV dimensions, i.e., **violence** and **coercive control**
- Focus services and responses to specific relationship dynamics, circumstances, and risks
- Expand services and prevention efforts to meet **all** needs, including those of the perpetrator, victim, and family



# Future Directions

Consider IPV types, warning signs of abuse, and perpetrator's abusive strategies with consideration for our ever-changing world

- Technology as a tool for abuse in current or former relationships
- Opportunities for help-seeking, education, identification, and response via technology
- Education as primary prevention to promote awareness, respect, and empowered relationships across the lifespan
- Continuing education and training for professionals
- Holistic and collaborative community services



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